Ferrie

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg re JFK records, appeals 9/1/78
Withholdings- records referred to not provided
David W. Ferrie (deceased) and unmet FOIA request of 10 years ago

Serial 2026, attached, is from DFO #44-1639, the Jack Ruby files, yet there is no reference in it to Ruby and no suggestion of any relationship to him. Unless there was what I have no reason to believe, misfiling and this not caught by those who serialize and index, other records not provided appear to be the most logical explanation.

This record, which should be an original of an airtel sent to DFO from NO FO, actually is a carbon of the original. NO FO sent two copies, so if this carbon is the second copy, the original has yet to be accounted for. It was not provided.

70 enclosures are indicated. None provided or referred to.

Opening reference is to DFO tel to N.O., 12/9/63, which is not in this file and to the best of my recollection was not provided from any other file.

I do not recall anyx copy provided in connection with any of those named in this airtel, specifically no copy in the Oswald file as provided.

Ferrie and other withholdings are certain to figure in correspondence relating to the New Orleans files, not yet provided, so I'll here give details that may also be of future use to your staff.

Ferrie surfaced early in the JFK assassination investigation. All the Ferrie records made available at the Archives in early 1967, a small fraction of the Ferrie records, are incomplete and elliptical. Those records then withheld at the Archives were withheld at the direction of the FBI. I made an FOIA request. After the passing of much time the Department provided copies that now are known not to have been complete. There was no indication of any additional withholding. This record alone is one of the proofs that there was still withholding, not explained or justified. While examination of the records provided under my FOIA request did disclose legitimate privacy considerations for a few, those privacy considerations were waived without regard to the rights of those associated with Ferrie. The Jefferson and Orleans Parish police described him as a homosexual. Most of the records provided under my FOIA request did not qualify for withholding under any exemption.

I am the one who brought the Ferrie matter to light in the second of the Whitewash series published 12/2/66. I added to this in Oswald in New Orleans, published in 1967.

Attention was first drawn to Ferrie right after the assassination by one other than the Jack Martin referred to in this airtel. Martin followed one Edward Voebel, a classmate of Oswald's who was also a Civil Air Patrol cadet with Oswald. Ferrie has been CAP, too. For some reason the FBI preferred to lay it all on Martin, alias of Suggs, possibly because there was ill will between him and Ferrie. (Ferrie died just before Garrison charge him, Shaw and Oswald in a conspiracy. I knew Martin later.)

Ferrie was an unusual person. He was very bright, very sick emotionally and so far to the right he was found to be extreme by conservative military groups. He threatened JFK's life before one of these groups. I recall no reference to this in any FBI record I have seen.

Two days after JFK was killed Ferrie surrendered himself to Garrison, having been informed that he was wanted by his attorney, the G. Wray Gill who is mentioned in the first paragraph of Serial 2026. The Garrison office made Ferrie available to the FBI and the Secret Service. When they had no interest, Garrison later said, he released Ferrie.

The reference to Gill and Ferrie in the first paragraph of this airtel is quite inadequate. The inadequacy is matched by N.O. PO records that are relevant.

Ferrie was Gill's investigator on behalf of Carlos Marcello, in the immigration case the Government lost. Regis Kennedy, FBI SA, was a Government investigator in that case. He and Ferrie were both waiting as potential witnesses, in attendance upon federal district court. A week or so after the assassination Kennedy filed a very short report, about 6 or 7 lines, in which he failed to make any reference to Ferrie's whereabouts at the time of the assassination, a matter of some importance if Ferrie were to be regarded as a suspect. What better alibi can one have than an FBI agent? The Ferrie-Marcello relationship is not reported in this airtel, either.

The content of this airtel disclose no reason for it to have been filed. No reason for the information about Martin or those involved in phoney religious degrees to be mentioned, no explanation of any interest in hypnotism, especially not in connection with Oswald. I believe it is a not unreasonable presumption that some record not provided explains these unexplained contents, if not also the omissions from the airtel. Still withheld records may also explain this filing under Ruby as well as the omission from the Oswald file.

Also conspicuously absent in this and all other Ferrie records I recall from official copies is the FBI's suspicion about Ferrie as a gun-runner to Cuba. I am aware of this from records the FBI made available under the table to a private interest, a large corporation, long before there was the FOIA. Despite current FBI representations, especially in court, this was a not uncommon practise of the FBI's, and there was not infrequent reciprocation. In this I am also informing you in advance that I have knowledge of New Orleans and Miami FBI records that should be provided and as yet have not been. Why they were not provided to the Warren Commission, to whose work they were quite relevant, I do not know.